

Remarks

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 46-48 and 50-83 are pending in the application, with claims 46-48 being independent claims. Claims 34-45 and 49 have been cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter therein. New claims 50-83 have been added. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the canceled subject matter in a copending application.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge Examiner's determination that claims 46-48 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 46-48 have been rewritten in independent form and are believed to be in condition for allowance. The outstanding rejections of claims 34-45 and 49 are rendered moot by this amendment because those claims have been cancelled. In addition, new claims 50-83 are in condition for allowance because they depend from allowable independent claims 46-48.

Based on the above amendment, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn.

Conclusion

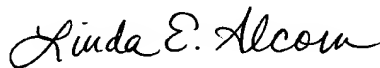
All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will

expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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